

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action all of the claims, except for Claims 9 and 10, were rejected primarily in view of the newly cited Takizawa patent. Particularly, Claims 1, 2, 38 and 39 were rejected as being anticipated by Takizawa, while Claims 3-8 were rejected as being obvious in view of a combination of the disclosure of Takizawa and the previously cited Ukita patent.

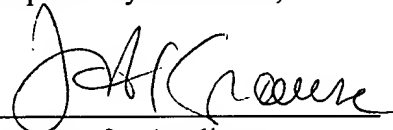
In response, it is noted that independent Claim 1 has now been amended to require an operation circuit “which provides at least two different color reference signals on the 2 rows x 2 columns basis”. This structure is disclosed, for example, in conjunction with Applicants' Figs. 5 and 6.

It is respectfully submitted that these requirements as now set forth in Claim 1 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by any of the cited references or any combination thereof. That is, the references do not disclose the invention set forth in Claim 1, which requires an image pickup apparatus including a plurality of pixels and a color filter array having a periodicity of 2 rows x 2 columns, and including an operation circuit which provides at least two different color reference signals on the basis of the 2 rows x 2 columns arrangement. Particularly, Takizawa, which is the principal rejecting reference, discloses a filter array, but does not disclose or suggest an operation circuit providing “at least two different color reference signals on the 2 rows x 2 columns basis”. Applicants submit that this deficiency of Takizawa as a rejecting reference is not overcome by the Ukita patent, nor by any other of the cited references.

For these various reasons Applicants believe that Claim 1 is now allowable, along with all of the claims which depend therefrom, wherefore the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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